THREAT MATERIEL SOLUTIONS FOR ARMY ACQUISITION

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Introduction

If you are an Army weapon system program manager (PM) or a member of a research, development and engineering center (RDEC) concerned about the foreign threat to your program, then this article is for you. There is both a process and an Army organization in the acquisition community that provide the acquisition and testing communities with threat products (hardware and simulations) needed to satisfy their threat analysis and testing objectives. The process, entitled the Threat Simulator/Simulation Program Plan (TSPP), is chartered by the Army Materiel Command (AMC) and supported by the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE). The organization that provides threat materiel identified by the TSPP process is the Threat Systems Management Office (TSMO).

The TSMO

TSMO develops threat products and acquires actual foreign materiel in support of Army acquisition. TSMO is a management office under the PM, Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators (ITTS). PM, ITTS is part of the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command (STRICOM), a major subordinate command (MSC) of AMC.

As the chartered threat materiel developer for the Army, TSMO is institutionally funded to develop and provide the Army acquisition and testing communities with threat products. In most cases, TSMO delivers the threat products it develops or acquires to the Army Test and Evaluation Command's (ATEC's) Threat Support Activity (ATSA). ATSA operates and maintains the threat systems and provides them for developmental and operational testing. Other simulator, foreign materiel, and simulation products developed by TSMO are either provided to various users or delivered to and maintained by the TSMO threat facility at Redstone Arsenal, AL. This facility allows users access to threat simulations via distributed methods for use in developmental testing, analysis, and experimentation.

Threat products, whether actual foreign equipment or hardware or software simulators, must be validated in association with the intelligence community as part of the threat development process. TSMO accomplishes the threat validation process through an established Army program supervised by the Test and Evaluation Management Agency (TEMA). Each threat validation effort is managed via a Threat Validation Working Group (VWG) chaired by TEMA. VWG membership includes representatives of the intelligence community and other appropriate stakeholders. A threat product validation report signed by TEMA and approved by the DOD Director for Operational Test and Evaluation ensures that threat products developed by TSMO accurately represent the threat.

TSPP

Now you know there is an organization that is chartered and funded to provide validated threat products in support of the acquisition community. But as a PM or RDEC manager, how do you get your threat materiel needs into the system? The answer is amazingly simple: interface with the TSPP process.

The purpose of the TSPP process is to identify and compile Army threat materiel requirements, clearly articulate and prioritize those needs, and champion them through the Army Program Objective Memorandum (POM) process. An integrated product team (IPT) chaired by the AMC Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition (DCSRDA) drives the annual TSPP process. The TSPP process was chartered by the AMC Commanding General (CG) and supported by the AAE in 1997, with PM, ITTS assigned as the Secretary. Voting membership includes one representative from each program executive office (PEO) and one representative from each AMC MSC.

Also included in the IPT are representatives from the Office of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (DCSINT), the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), and the ATEC.

IPT observers also include the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (OSAALT), the Office of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (ODCSOPS), and TEMA.

Threat product requirements are normally collected via an annual data collection process. Data collection is achieved by onsite visits to project and product management offices and meetings with developer representatives in each PEO and in each of AMC's MSCs. Coordination for data collection is handled via PEO and MSC IPT members. Data are collected between February and July.

If you want to get your threat materiel needs into the TSPP process, you have two routes: Submit them during annual data collection or submit them to your PEO/MSC representative. If your threat materiel needs are identified in the TSPP, funds from the testing budget operating system can potentially be used to acquire or develop these threat products. Remember that the TSPP IPT compiles threat simulator/simulation needs and consolidates them into a prioritized list. This Army prioritization guides funding of threat products.

The TSPP provides an appropriate forum to ensure that all parties involved with the acquisition and testing of weapon systems play a role in determining threat product needs. The TSPP also provides a single voice for threat materiel requirements within the Army's research, development, and acquisition (RD&A) community. In addition, the TSPP process interfaces with the other Services to address potential duplication and seek funding from joint forums.

TSPP's Value

The value of the TSPP is fourfold. First, the TSPP process brings together program representatives, testers, and the intelligence community. This is important because the TSPP IPT process fills a gap in the Army acquisition process. Until the TSPP's inception, no standard procedure adequately tied together defined threats with Five-Year Test Program (FYTP) resourcing for the test and evaluation community's System

Threat Simulator/Simulation Program Plan

Purpose	Authority	Organization

• Identify, compile, and prioritize Army threat materiel requirements supporting the acquisition community
 	
• Clearly articulate threat materiel needs to the Army staff
 	
• Champion threat materiel solutions through the POM process
	April 18, 1997, AMC CG directed:
	  • AMC DCSRDA initiate and sustain the TSPP
	  • PM, ITTS facilitate the TSPP
	
	May 5, 1997, AMC DCSRDA directed:
	  • Use of IPT process
	  • IPT Executive Secretary to be the TSMO
	  • AMC DCSRDA to be the IPT chair
	
	May 9, 1997, AAE directed:
	  • PEO participation as TSPP IPT members
		IPT
		AMC DCSRDA (Chair)
		
		Membership
		TACOM ATEC
		AMCOM PEO, Aviation
		SBCCOM PEO, AMD
		CECOM PEO, C3S
		STRICOM PEO, GCSS
		ARL PEO, IEW&S
		AMSAA PEO, Tactical
		HQDA DCSINT Missiles
		HQ TRADOC
		   DCSINT
		
		Observers
		OASAALT TEMA
		ODCSOPS

AMCOM: U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command; AMD: Air and Missile Defense; AMSAA: Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity; ARL: U.S. Army Research Laboratory; C3S: Command, Control and Communications Systems; CECOM: U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command; GCSS: Global Combat Support System; IEW&S: Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors; SBCCOM: U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command; TACOM: U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

Evaluation Plan and Threat Test Support Packages. This is also true for FYTP resourcing of threat products identified in a program's Simulation Support Plan (SSP) and Test and Evaluation Master Plan. Too often, lack of documented procedures forces individual programs to shoulder common threat costs.

The second reason why the TSPP is valuable is because it provides a single prioritized view of the RD&A threat product requirements to senior Army leadership. Unfortunately, there are not enough dollars to develop or purchase every threat product requested. However, with a united ATEC, PEO, AMC, TRADOC, and intelligence effort relative to threat materiel needs, the acquisition community can make a stronger case for unfunded threat needs.

The third reason for the TSPP's value is that it confirms the intelligence community's position. Because the Army DCSINT and the TRADOC DCSINT are voting members, they and other intelligence community members can thoroughly review each threat product identified via the TSPP process. This gives the intelligence community an opportunity to either confirm the threat application or challenge whether

the need is still valid. This extremely important voice helps to ensure that the Army is spending its threat materiel dollars on needed products.

Finally, the TSPP is valuable because it helps to ensure that TSMO provides the right threat materiel to the right customers at the right time.

Maturation Of The TSPP

The TSPP process is in its fourth year of use and continues to be refined and improved. During the first few years, the PEOs and MSCs have come together in processing their threat materiel needs and in consolidating their priorities. ATEC, TRADOC, and the intelligence community became IPT members during the last year and have a key role in the continued success of the TSPP process. All TSPP IPT members realize the importance and significance of consensus among PEO, AMC, TRADOC, ATEC, and intelligence organizations.

Conclusion

The Army Materiel Command has a unique organization and process dedicated to ensuring Army weapon system developers, testers, and research per-

sonnel are provided with the threat materiel needed to support their programs. The TSPP provides the mechanism for the acquisition and testing community to get their needs into a formalized process that supports POM development for threat materiel. Finally, the TSPP provides a strong network of intelligence, acquisition, and testing professionals dedicated to ensuring Army weapon systems are developed and tested in proper threat environments.

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